

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please replace line 1 with the following line:

METHODS FOR ESTABLISHING CONTROL SIGNALING AT LINK START-
UP IN A COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 32 with the following amended paragraph:

However, a disadvantage with this prior art is that, in order for the nodes to be able to start communicating with each other to, for example, set up payload traffic channels, each node on a link typically has to know, for each other node on that link, which time slots in the recurring frame on that link that other node uses as ~~it's~~ its control channel. This means that either the time slot location of such channels must be in some way be predefined or the operator must manually, or by use of an overlying management system, configure the channels as found fit on the subject link at link set-up, thereby either limiting network configuration freedom or adding undesired configuration steps during link set-up.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

This, according to an aspect of the invention, all nodes connected to the same link is preconfigured to use, at link start-up, the same predefined time slot or set of time slots in said frames to receive control signaling messages from and transmit control signaling messages to nodes connected to the link. The nodes then establishes, using control signaling via said predefined time slot or set of time slots, respective control channels, defined by respective time slots or sets of time slots in said frames, reserved for transmission of control signaling messages from respective ones of said nodes. Each respective one of the nodes then uses ~~it's~~ its respective control channel to transmit control signaling messages to other nodes connected to the link, the other nodes accessing said this dedicated control channel only for receiving control signaling messages.

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